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Isolation of the Baltic Area

1. As soon as the Soviet forces reoccupied the Baltic states in 1944 and 1945, measures were taken to set this region off from the rest of Europe. A barrier was erected for two purposes: (1) to keep refugees from fleeing to Western Europe with information on Soviet activities within this region, and (2) to keep out possible agents approaching from the West. By the summer of 1950 the Soviet screen had the following features:

Coastal Radar Screen

2. The passage between the island of Saaremaa and the Kurland Peninsula was guarded by four radar stations. Two were on the island and two were on the mainland. The beams were not only aimed directly across the strait between the stations, but were also crisscrossed diagonally. The beams were reported to be sensitive enough to pick up even smaller fishing craft. The radar network was supplemented by small minefields.

Air Patrols

3. The coastal waters were patrolled during 1950 by aircraft flying regular patterns across the narrow seas. The planes, which were on the lookout for submarines, were equipped with radar.

Situation on the Estonian Islands

4. Contradictory reports have been received concerning the security screen among the Estonian islands in the Gulf of Riga. One report speaks of an evacuation of the inhabitants of the islands and the existence of a heavy motorboat patrol supplementing a radar screen. Other reports dated 1950, however, state that it is possible to make motorboat voyages among the islands north of Saaremaa.
5. It is reported that in September 1950 a metal tank or container was blown off to sea from the Swedish coast and drifted among the Estonian islands and was spotted by no less than nine different radar stations within the islands.

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Situation on the Gulf of Finland

6. Late in the autumn of 1950 tests were undertaken for the establishment of radar screens across the Gulf of Finland. The northern bases for these beams are said to be in the Aaland Islands and at Hangö.

Electrified Barbed-Wire Entanglements

7. Press reports of the existence of high-tension barbed-wire barriers along the Baltic Coast have been confirmed only in so far as the sectors around Ventspils, Latvia, and Paldiski, Estonia, are concerned.

Radar and Air Patrol Complements

8. Reliable reports state that the four 50X1-HUM radar stations along the straits between Saaremaa and the Latvian mainland employed a total of 11 officers and 371 enlisted men at the beginning of May 1950. the coastal air patrol described in paragraph 3 was maintained by a force of 24 planes. The ground crews total-
led 200 men. 50X1-HUM

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